

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA;LBLAINGEN:CV

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON, JR

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

----- 123316

P 151737Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 252256

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PK, BG

SUBJECT: PAK-BANGLADESH RELATIONS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. DURING OUR TALKS IN DACCA, FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HOSSAIN TOLD ME THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO SETTLE THE ASSETS ISSUE WITH PAKISTAN ON THE BASIS OF SOME TOKEN AMOUNT. WHEN I SAW BHUTTO IN ISLAMABAD I DID NOT INDICATE TO HIM PRECISELY WHAT HOSSAIN HAD TOLD ME BUT I DID SAY THAT IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING AFTER MY VISIT TO DACCA THAT THE BENGALLEES WERE PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE ON THIS ISSUE. BHUTTO IN TURN TOLD ME THAT HE WAS OPEN TO COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE AND SPECIFICALLY PREPARED TO SET UP A JOINT FACT-FINDING COMMISSION TO CONSIDER THE ENTIRE PROBLEM OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, WITH AN AGREED DEADLINE OF PERHAPS SIX MONTHS, BUT THAT HE WAS OPEN TO A SHORTER DEADLINE. HE TOLD ME HE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO MY PASSING THIS BACK TO THE BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. YOU SHOULD ADVISE KAMAL HOSSAIN THAT I DID HAVE OPPOR-
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TUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS GENERAL PROBLEM WITH BHUTTO IN

ISLAMABAD AND THAT BHUTTO AUTHORIZED ME TO CONVEY HIS
POSITION BACK TO HIM. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE BENGALLEES

HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN SKEPTICAL ABOUT PAKISTAN'S EARLIER
INDICATION THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO REFER THIS GENERAL
PROBLEM TO A JOINT COMMISSION BECAUSE OF THEIR FEAR
THAT DISCUSSION WOULD BE INTERMINABLE AND INCONCLUSIVE.
IF THAT IS THE CASE, BHUTTO'S POSITION AS EXPRESSED TO
ME MAY SUGGEST THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME PROGRESS IN
GETTING THE TWO SIDES TO AGREE AS TO HOW THIS ISSUE
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED. KISSINGER

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NNN

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Draft Date: 15 NOV 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
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